

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Special Announcements

1. Be sure to read publishers' note on page 14.
2. Note that new subscriptions are coming in, not as rapidly as we would like to see, but the list is growing. Please turn to page 16 and see for yourself what *one* pastor has done in his congregations; not *every* pastor can do as well as that for the reason that already more members are taking the paper, but there are *some* congregations where there is room for even a larger list of new subscribers. Please remember that you can offer all new subscribers (until the stock is exhausted) a copy of the Twentieth Century Number of the EVANGELIST, and promise another one late in April or early in May. This is an opportune time to secure new subscriptions and we trust all our pastors, agents and others interested will take advantage of the opportunity.

Minorities

The late Lord Coleridge said that minorities were more often right than majorities. This is a doctrine which would hardly pass muster in a republican form of government where the majority has the lawful and natural right to boss everything, and impose its will upon the minority, nevertheless there are some notable historical instances illustrating the correctness of his lordship's opinion. Take Noah, for example. He was in a hopeless minority if ever a man was. A vote on the subject of the flood would have left him standing almost if not quite alone, yet time showed that he was tremendously right and the rest of the world disastrously wrong. Abraham furnishes the next notable example. Seceding from his own country and people he went out to a strange land to found a nation of his own blood. Doubtless we can correctly imagine his Mesopotamian countrymen ridiculing his pretensions. "Better stay with your tribe, Abe. You will be robbed and murdered. You can not stand alone. You are in a hopeless minority. The desert will swallow you up. The stranger will devour you." But the patriarch went out, nevertheless, and we now see that he was right, for he was guided by One who with Abraham made a majority. His posterity is among us today, but as to his paternal tribe, where is it? Dropping down to Moses, we find another striking illustration. He was in a minority too. All Egypt, and at one time, all Israel was against him. He stood alone with nobody but Aaron and God to help him, and again we see that the little minority was mighty right. Any one familiar with the Bible can come right along down its record and pick out one notable instance after another where little minorities were pitted against great majorities, and for the most part we find that they were in the right, vitally, seriously, awfully in the right. How is it with Christ? If his

mission had been left to the popular vote, that would have been the end of it. He stood nearly alone, or with a despicably small following, while the whole Jewish nation and the whole Roman empire voted on the other side. Yet we suppose most of us, even the most staunch believers in the right of the majority to rule, will admit that Christ was right and the crowd was wrong. Take the case of the apostles, the primitive church, the martyrs, the modern church, take any cause of truth and righteousness the world over, in any nation and in any age, and nine times out of ten we will find that the minority was right, is right now, and the majority wrong. What is the philosophy of this? There may be several reasons of vital importance, but there is one which comes forward and announces itself promptly. It is that multitudes will always vote with the majority *because it is the majority*, while no one will vote with the minority except on principle. Therefore the smallest minorities may contain more honest men, more thinking men, more enlightened men, than the biggest majorities. The wise man, happening to find himself in the majority on any question, will always give cheerful and impartial consideration to the claims of the minority. After all they may be right, and your honest and sincere man feels that he can not afford to be found in the wrong. Present victory counts for nothing if it leads to ultimate defeat. And your wise man knows that truth will triumph tho all the world be arrayed against it.

A New Star

Astronomers were greatly excited last week by the appearance of a new star in the constellation Perseus. At first it was only visible thru the telescopes, but in a short time it had increased so much in size and brilliancy as to be visible without the aid of glasses. Early in the evening it is seen not far from the north star, and after midnight appears again. It is waning now, as if it had started back whence it came. Much speculation has been ventured as to the nature of this strange spectacle in the starry vast. Think of the enormous conflagration that can be seen at so vast a distance. It is as if a great world had been set on fire. How little we are when our littleness is set in contrast with the wonderful heavens. "What is man that thou art mindful of him?" Yet hath he made us "a little lower than the angels," and waits to "drown us with honor and glory." We can not doubt that the time will come when we shall be able with the speed of thought to traverse the starry heavens, and visit its innumerable worlds, and see the wonderful works of God therein. What a day of freedom and power and glory that will be. We are far too prone to think of our case as travelers down to the darkness of the